

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 351

By Pody

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A RESOLUTION to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Adams Memorial Library in Cannon County.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this General Assembly to recognize those public institutions of learning and culture that are celebrating milestones in their venerable histories; and

WHEREAS, the Adams Memorial Library is one such praiseworthy institution that has served as a place of learning and enrichment for the citizens of its community for fifty years; and

WHEREAS, the origin of the Adams Memorial Library can be traced to the death of Dr. J.F. Adams in May 1964; as one of Woodbury's most ardent supporters, Dr. Adams had improved the quality of life of his fellow citizens as a beloved doctor and businessman; and

WHEREAS, at the doctor's funeral, Austin Jennings, Sol Berger, and Leonard Friedman discussed the need for a proper memorial for Dr. Adams that would also fill a great need in the community; Mr. Jennings suggested a library, and Mr. Berger and Mr. Friedman agreed; and

WHEREAS, a few days later, a group of Woodbury businessmen met in Hoyt Bryson's law office to organize the Dr. and Mrs. J.F. Adams Memorial Association, and plans were discussed for a fundraising campaign for the library; besides Mr. Bryson, the others at the meeting included Mr. Berger, Mr. Friedman, Ed Lehning, W.I. Womack, W.L. Richardson, Walden Watson, R.W. Hawkins, R.H. Burke, and Mr. Jennings, who was named the chairman; and

WHEREAS, the Dr. and Mrs. J.F. Adams Memorial Association was incorporated as a nonprofit organization and was designated by the IRS as a 501(c)3 charitable organization; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Adams donated the lot next door to the family home on College Street, and Mr. Berger engaged the services of an architect who drew up plans for the library building; and

WHEREAS, the good people of Cannon County generously gave a total of \$85,000 to the library fundraising campaign; as construction progressed under the supervision of Henry Hoover, an additional \$55,000 was borrowed from the Bank of Commerce, which loan was discounted by the bank and later paid off. Mr. Berger provided approximately \$80,000 of the \$160,000 total cost of the building; and

WHEREAS, the Adams Memorial Library was dedicated in July 1966; this 6,200-square-foot building was completed just two years after the death of Dr. Adams; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Adams and her family donated various pieces of property to the Dr. and Mrs. J.F. Adams Memorial Association, and rental income from these properties provided funds to properly maintain the library and its grounds; the sale of her home upon her death as well as other donations from family members have been the primary source of the association's trust fund, providing the income needed to keep the building in top-notch condition; and

WHEREAS, with a bequest from the estate of Mrs. Maedell Banks Rogers in the fall of 1995, the trust fund for the Dr. and Mrs. J.F. Adams Memorial Association was increased to more than \$600,000; the money is invested to provide income for continued maintenance and upkeep and occasional additions to the facility and its equipment, including computerizing the library's catalog and connecting the building to the internet; and

WHEREAS, a renovation and a 3,000-square-foot expansion project was completed in March 2013; the Adams Memorial Library now includes a technology center with twenty-four public computers and Wi-Fi access, a renovated meeting room, a dedicated young adult space, an improved children's room, and an expanded genealogy section with its own reading room and stacks. Off-street parking and additional space for staff were also added; and

WHEREAS, now handicap accessible with increased energy efficiency, the Adams Memorial Library has more than 5,500 registered users and the highest per capita circulation in

Middle Tennessee; patrons can check out books, audio books, and DVDs, and the meeting room is available for nonprofit organizations to hold public meetings; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause in their deliberations to acknowledge and applaud one of Tennessee's exemplary public institutions, the Adams Memorial Library, upon the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the good people of Woodbury and Cannon County in celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Adams Memorial Library, recognizing its indelible contributions to its community, and express our deep appreciation to the past and current staff, aides, and volunteers of the library for their years of meritorious service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.